

The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Initiative:

A New Oceans Governance Approach

**Oceans & Environment Branch
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Maritimes Region**





Rights and Responsibilities: “Bottom Lines”

- The *Oceans Act* defines Canada’s jurisdiction to the full extent allowed under international law.
- With these rights come responsibilities to govern in a manner consistent with international law and agreements.
- The *Oceans Act* lays out the principles and approaches for oceans and coastal management:
 - Sustainable Development
 - Integrated Management
 - Precautionary Approach
 - Ecosystem Approach
 - Collaborative Approach



Integrated Management under the *Oceans Act*

Part II, s. 31- The Minister, in collaboration... shall lead and facilitate the development and implementation of plans for the integrated management of all activities or measures in or affecting estuaries, coastal waters or marine waters...

Part II, s. 32- For the purposes of the implementation of integrated management plans, the Minister:

- shall develop, implement and coordinate policies and programs
- may establish/recognize advisory or management bodies

Definition of Integrated Management

- **Integrated Management** is an ongoing collaborative approach which brings together interested parties to incorporate social, cultural, environmental & economic values in the development & implementation of ocean use plans



There is a common process we are applying to all IM initiatives, at both the large-scale and community levels

**Define IM Area,
Assess Knowledge
& Issues**

Define ecosystem boundaries; compile ecological overview; existing & potential use audit; identify knowledge gaps; & issues

**Engage Interested
Parties**

People & commitment to cooperative action

**IM Plan
Development**

Planning bodies address issues & essential knowledge gaps; set goals, objectives & priorities; establish roles; & develop management plan

**IM Plan
Implementation**

Management body (regulators & others) commits to adopt and implement the plan

**IM Plan
Monitoring and
Evaluation**

Monitor & revise plan as required

The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Initiative



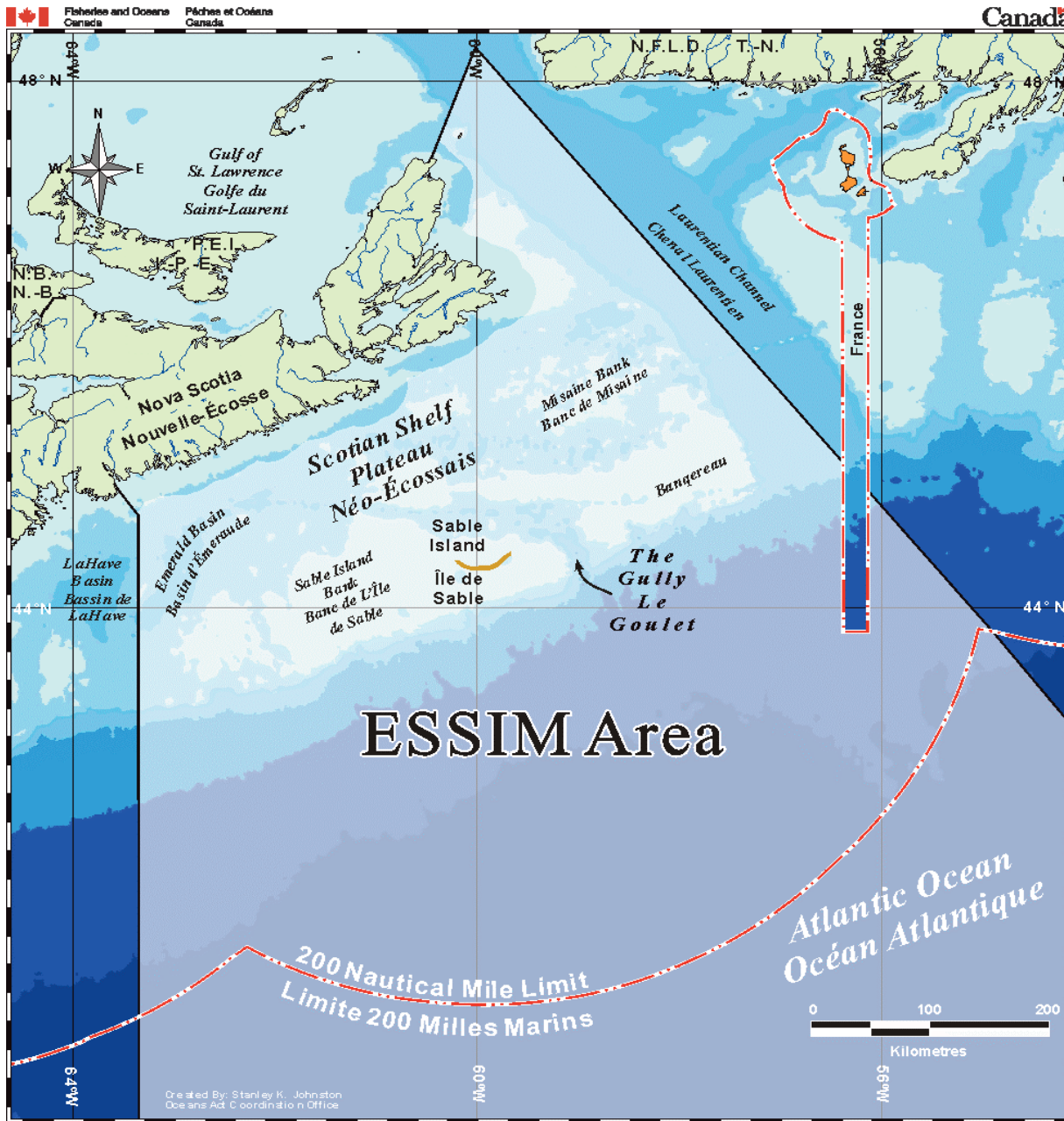
- **Announced December 1998 following recommendation from 1997 *Sable Gully Conservation Strategy***
- **First oceans management area with an offshore focus under the *Oceans Act***
- **Led by Oceans and Coastal Management Division, DFO Maritimes Region**
- **Based on National Framework for IM**



Why ESSIM?

- The ESSIM Initiative is putting the *Oceans Act* into practice to deliver on:
 - ecosystem and precautionary approaches to management
 - cumulative effects of multiple use
 - harmonization of management and regulatory approaches
 - horizontal and vertical integration of government
 - ocean space competition and conflict avoidance/resolution
 - proactive and coordinated planning and zoning
 - collaborative planning and decision-making
 - balancing economic, ecosystem and social objectives (sustainable development)

Defining the Oceans Management Area



Considers existing administrative boundaries

Based on ecological features

Accommodates communities of interest

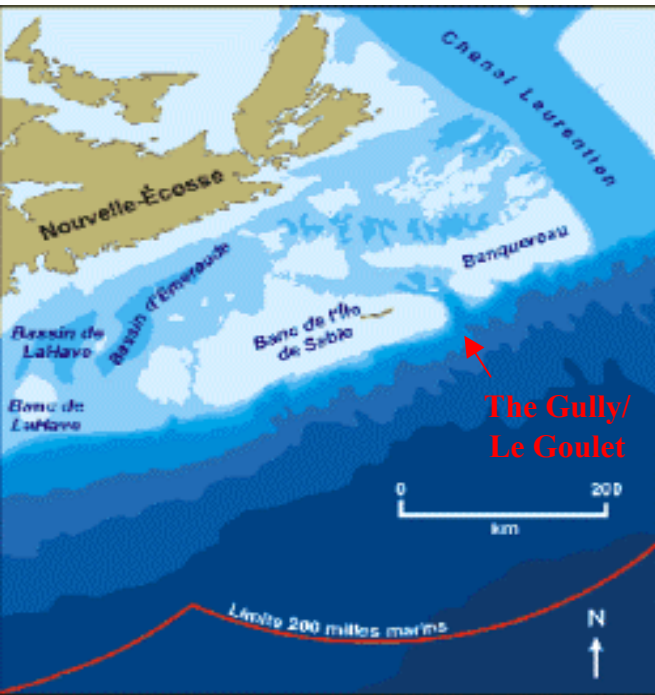
ESSIM Objectives



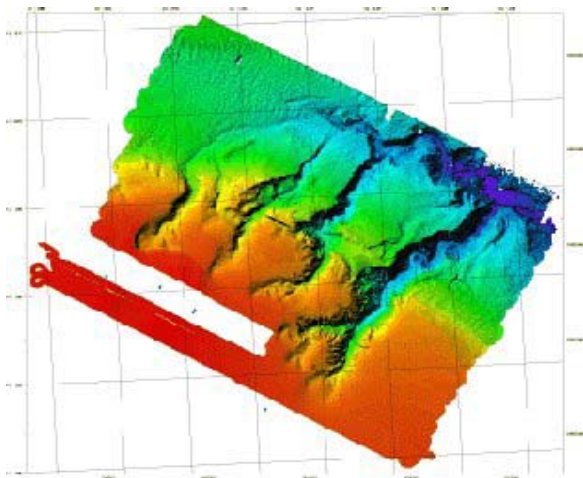
- **Integrate the management of all activities in the eastern Scotian Shelf area**
- **Encourage conservation, effective management and responsible use of marine resources**
- **Maintain or restore natural biological diversity and productivity of the marine environment**
- **Foster opportunities for ecologically sustainable economic diversification and wealth generation**

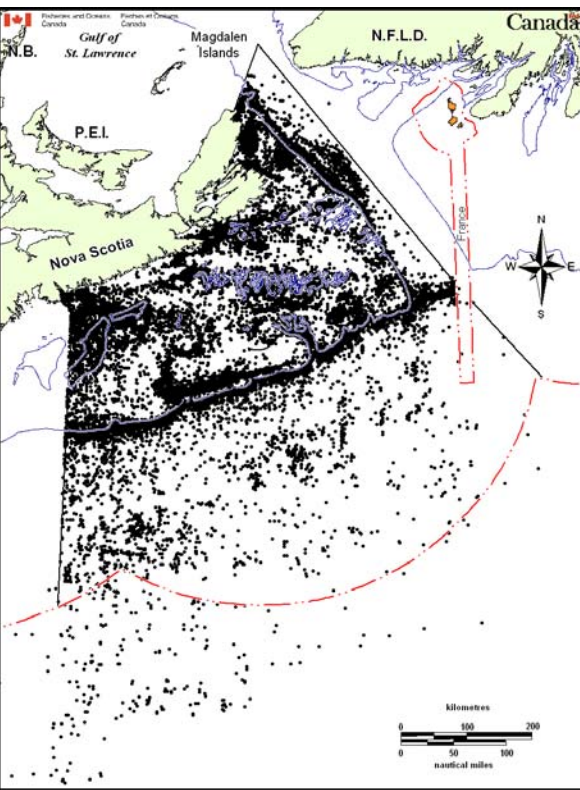


ESSIM Links with Gully MPA

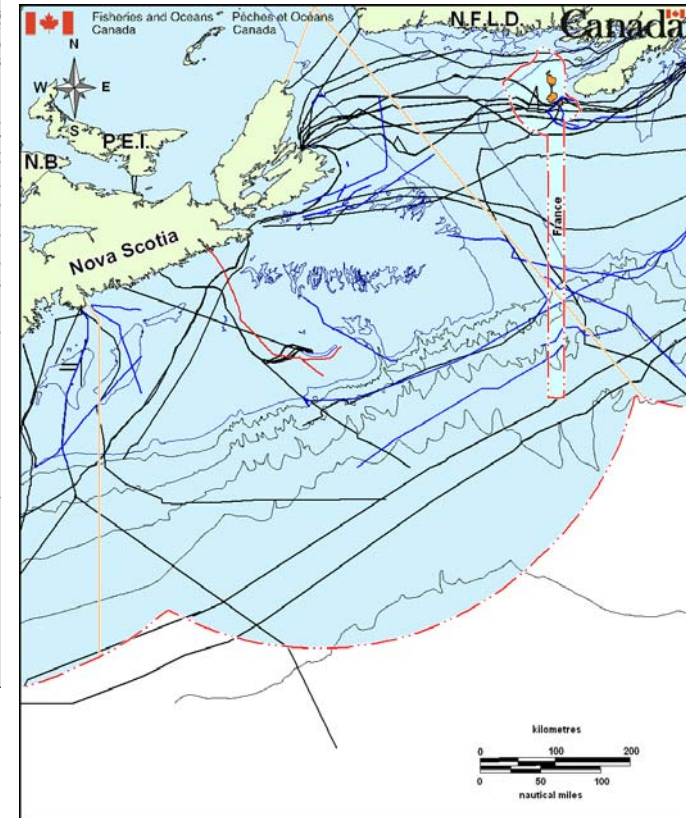
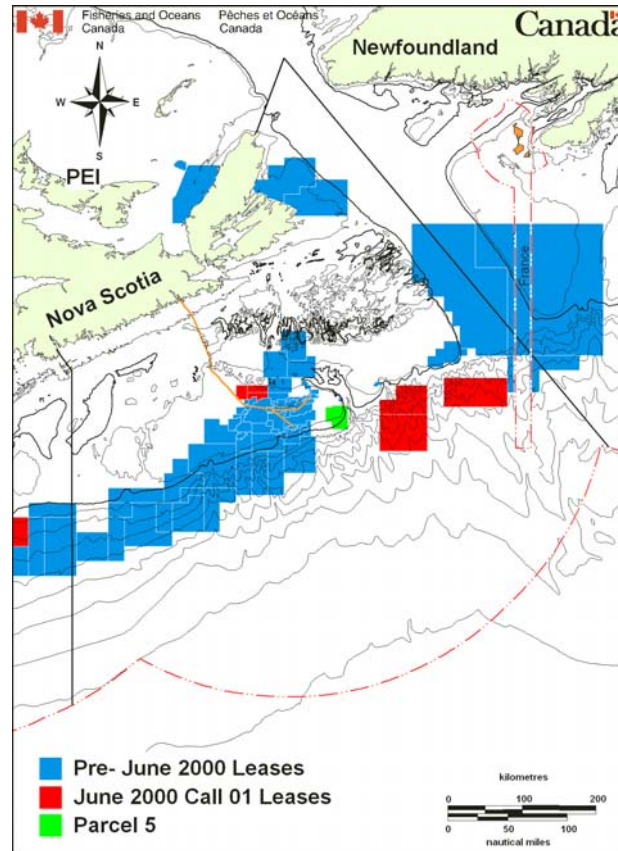


- **Gully Initiative highlighted:**
 - need for integrated management planning process for eastern Scotian Shelf ecosystem
 - support for systematic approach to MPA selection
- **Gully Strategy recommended ‘core area’ as an AOI**
- **Two parallel planning processes**
- **Eastern Scotian Shelf MPA Planning to converge through ESSIM**





Multiple Oceans Use



+ Maritime Defence

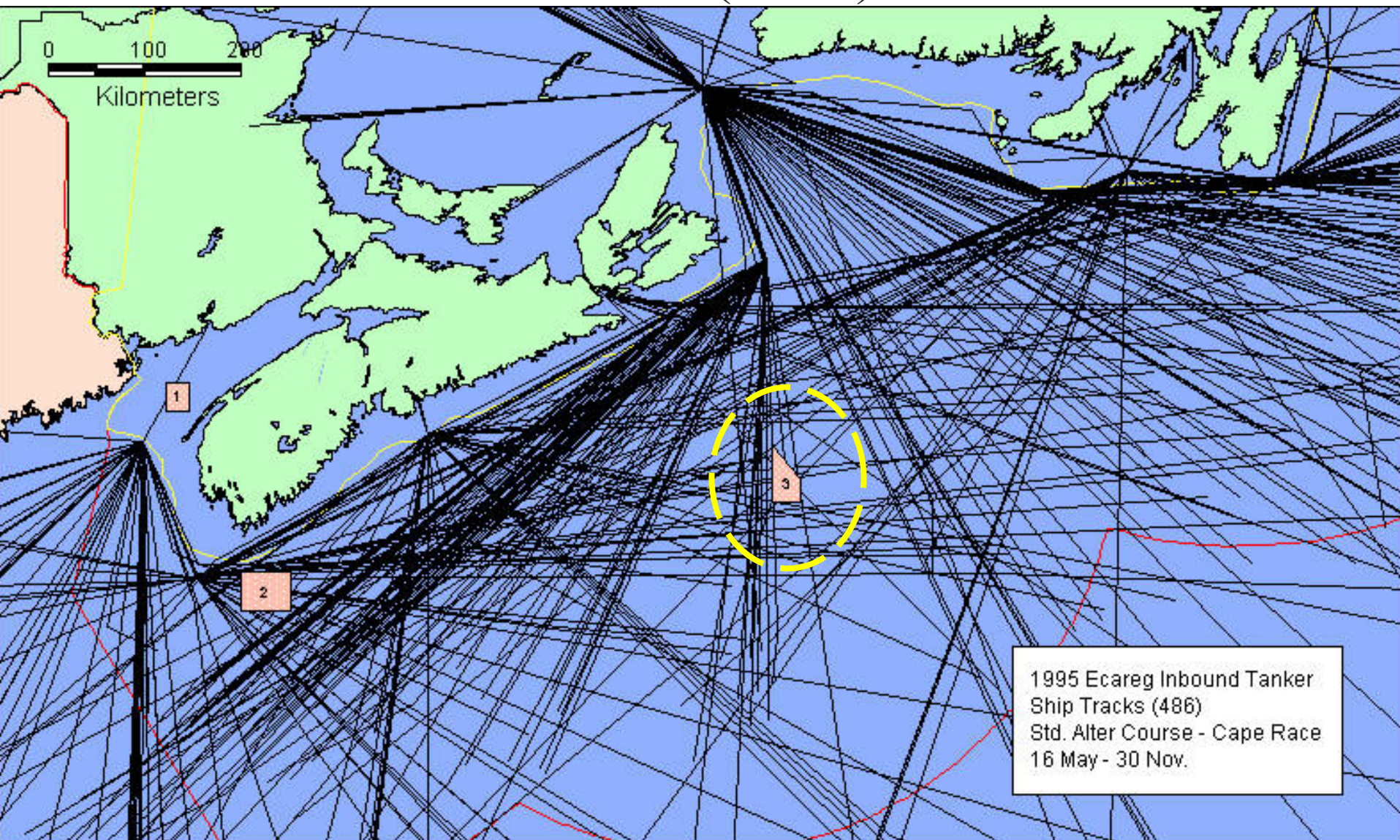
Recreation and Tourism

Science and Technology

Potential Ocean Mining

Marine Conservation/Protection...

Inbound Tanker Traffic (1995)

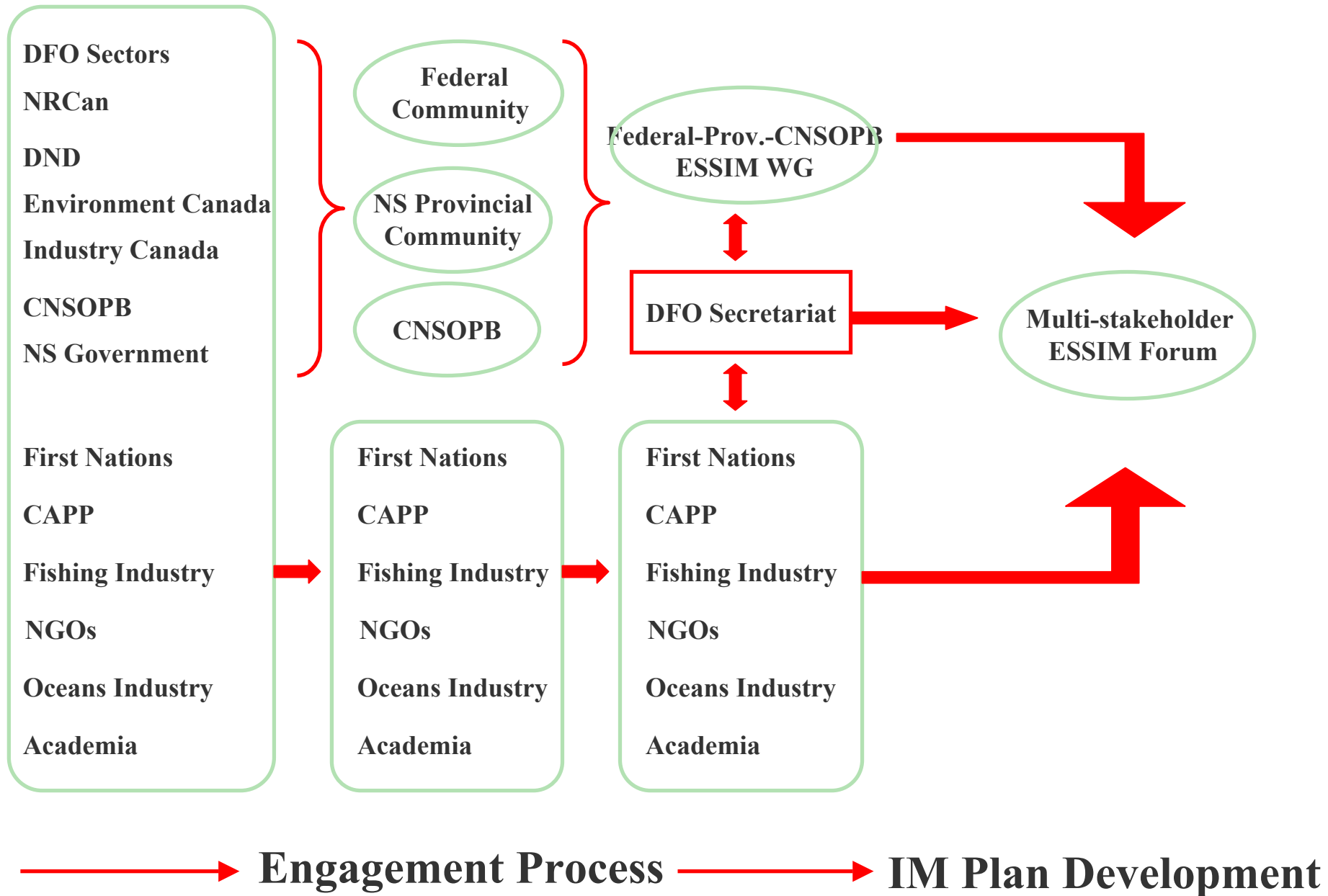




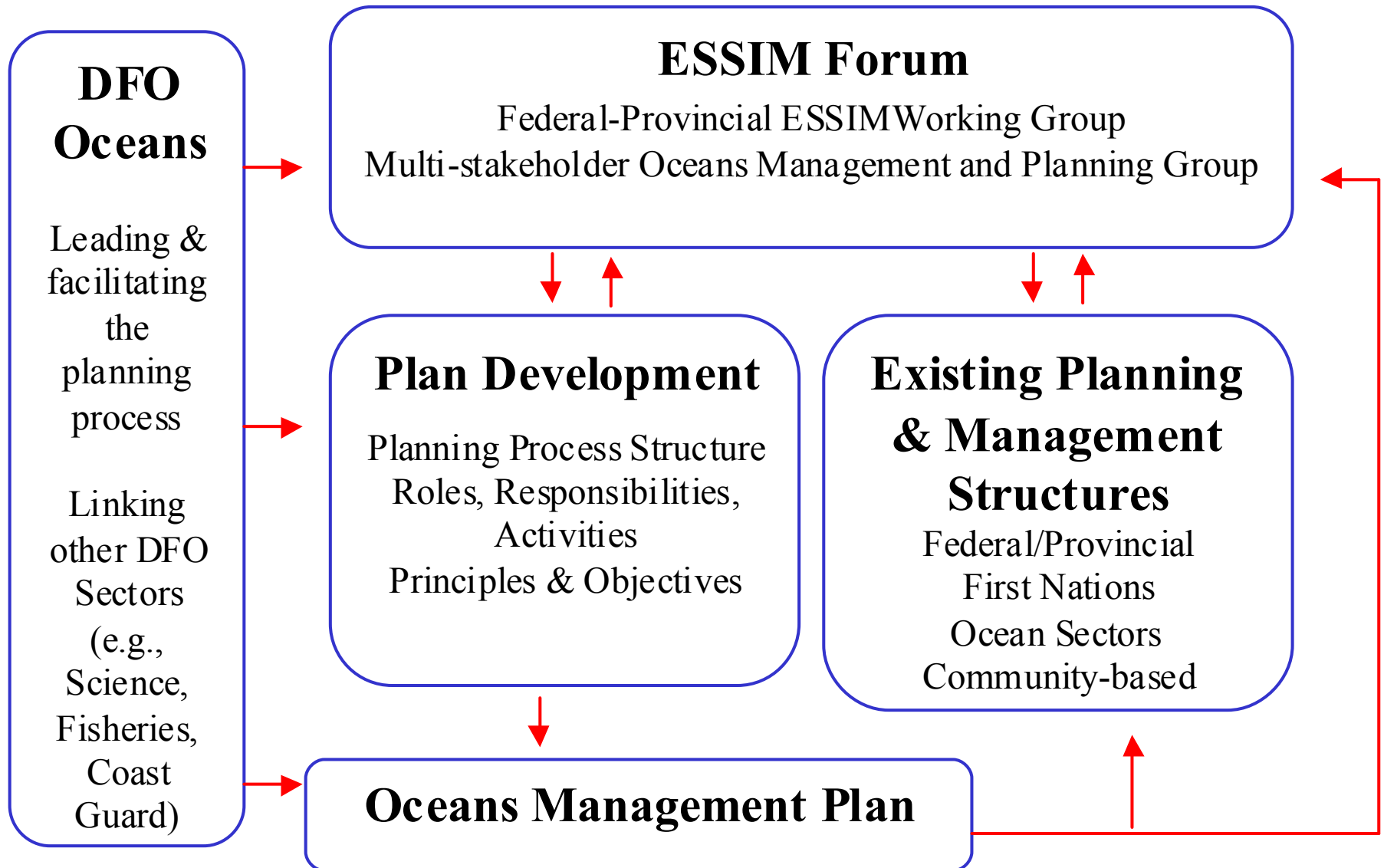
Oceans Management Area Plan

- **Area-Based Management Plans will mesh:**
 - existing and new management structures and powers (policy/regulatory coordination)
 - oceans use and activity zoning
 - ecosystem understanding (indicators, acceptable/unacceptable conditions and management actions)
 - MPA system planning
 - MEQ regulations (existing and new)
 - science, research, monitoring and feedback
 - collaborative decision-making and advisory processes
- **Operationalize and incorporate the principles and approaches of the *Oceans Act* in all sector planning and management processes**

ESSIM Governance Evolution



ESSIM Governance Mechanism



ESSIM Process



1999

- **Understanding the Area:**
 - Overview and use audit exercise
 - Building the base with stakeholders
 - Draft ESSIM and OCM Discussion Papers

- **Making the linkages:**
 - **Within DFO**
 - ESSIM Working Group
 - Oceans Management Steering Committee
 - **Federally**
 - Interdepartmental Committee on Oceans



ESSIM Process

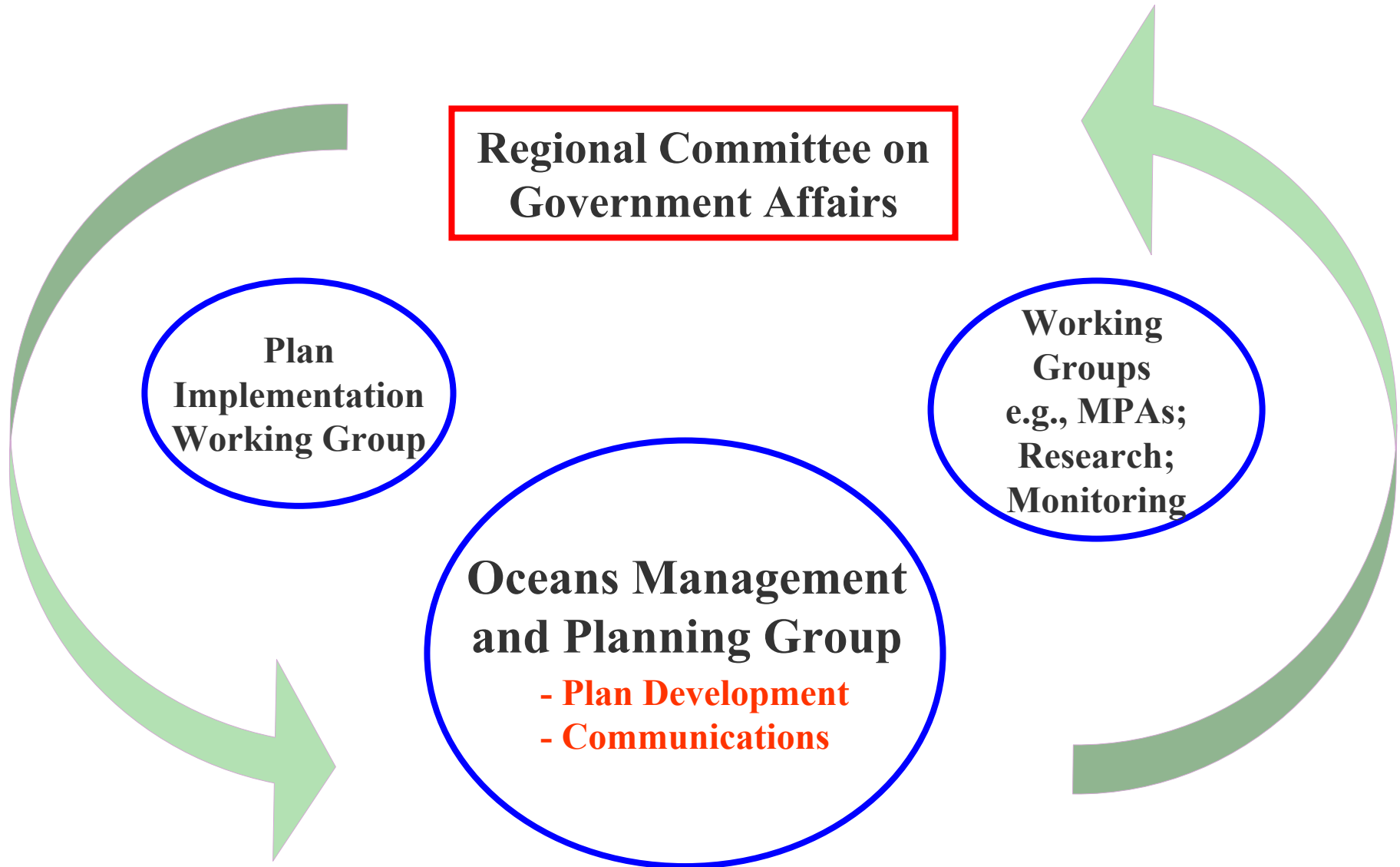
- **Continued review within DFO and federal family**
- **June 2000 ESSIM Ecosystem Workshop**
- **Provincial and First Nations involvement**
- **Discussions with oceans users and other interests highlighted:**
 - **Governments need to get their act together first**
 - **Linkages to existing management processes (e.g., CNSOPB/DFO Fisheries Management)**
 - **Varying levels of willingness and/or capacity to participate in multi-stakeholder planning process**



ESSIM Ecosystem Workshop (June 2000)

- **General support for proposed ecosystem objectives**
- **Revised and/or additional indicators needed (e.g., human health)**
- **Scale of data collection/adequacy of existing monitoring programs**
- **Need for partnerships to build scientific basis for ecosystem approaches (e.g., national ecosystem-based objectives initiative)**
- **Need to develop set of ecosystem objectives for all oceans uses**
- **Need for improved governance structures for all oceans uses**

Proposed ESSIM Governance Mechanism





Federal-Provincial ESSIM Working Group

- Formed on 9 January 2001
- Identified six-step workplan:
 - Complete *Scotian Shelf Ecosystem Description*
 - Prepare *ESSIM Issues Discussion Paper*
 - Prepare *ESSIM Federal-Provincial Regulatory Overview/Guide*
 - Draft *TORs for Proposed ESSIM Structure*
 - Draft *Framework for Eastern Scotian Shelf Oceans Management Plan*
 - Plan *1st ESSIM Forum Workshop*



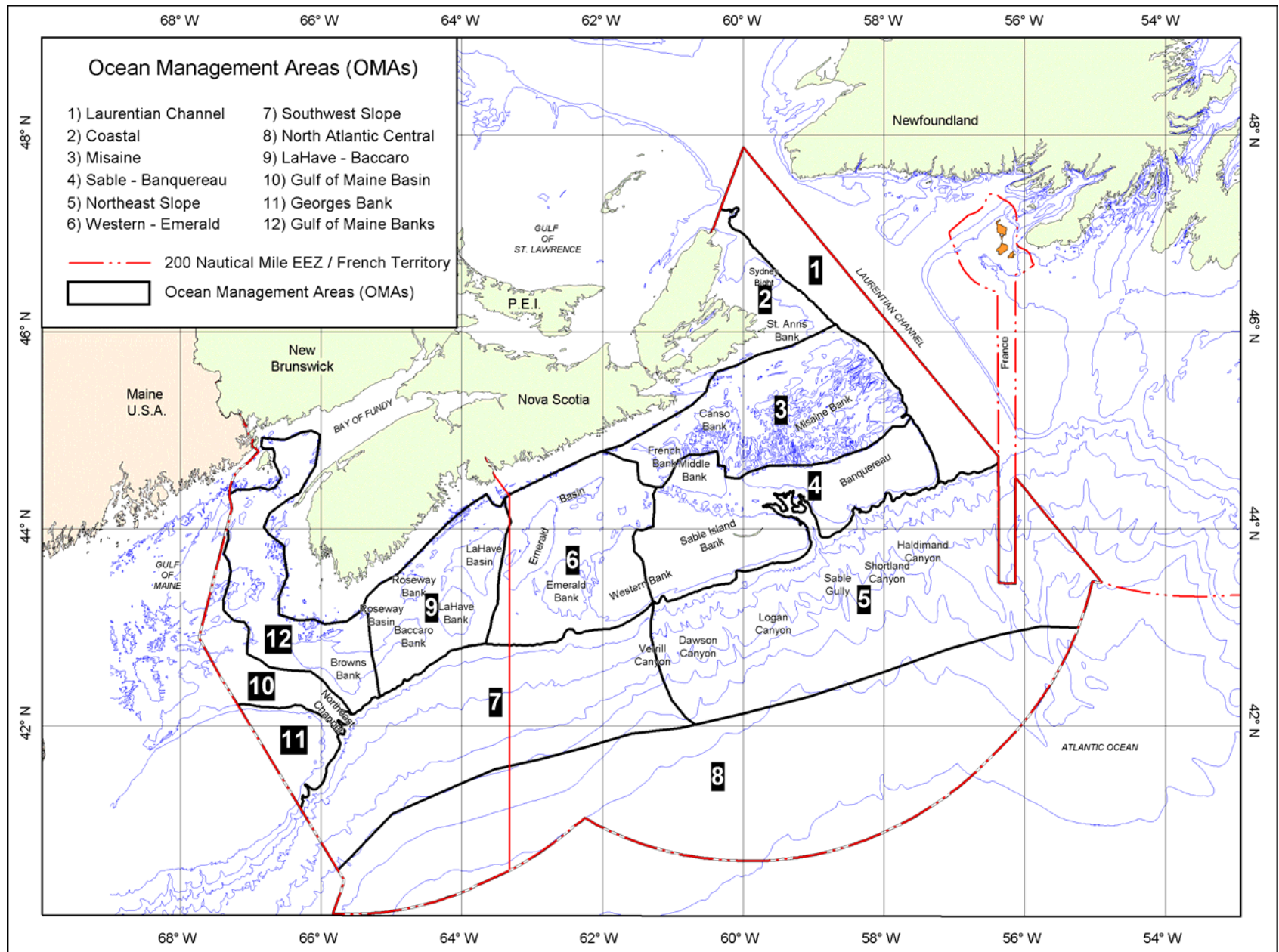
ESSIM Process

- **Workshop 2002**
 - **Approx 150 Attendees**
 - **All major sectors represented**
 - **General intent of ESSIM accepted**
 - **Plan framework to be developed for next meeting**
- **Utility Corridors**
 - **Issue specific working group**
 - **brought forward by local community organization**
 - **scoping session held in October 2002 to start to delineate concept**

ESSIM Process

- **Integrated Management Plan Framework**
- **Framework developed in conjunction with the fed prov Working Group**
- **Incorporated a proposed area based framework**
- **Base on the use of Ecosystem Objectives**
- **Include Economic and social objectives**

Proposed OMAs



Outline

- The ESSIM Initiative
- Planning Context: The Eastern Scotian Shelf
- Ocean Zoning Considerations
- Next Steps

ESSIM Process

- **Workshop 2003**
 - **Approx 150 attendees again**
 - **All major sectors**
 - **General acceptance of the framework**
 - **Identification of a Pilot Area to assess how to implement plan**